

THE RURAL DISTRICT
of
SAFFRON WALDEN
in the
Administrative County of Essex

THE
ANNUAL
REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Senior Sanitary Inspector
for the year
1952



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PREFACE

Public Health Department,
69 High Street,
Saffron Walden, Essex

To The Chairman and Members of the Saffron Walden Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1952.

The vital statistics for the Rural District continued to be satisfactory, the population (Registrar General's estimate) rose from 17,540 in 1951 to 17,740, the total Live Births were 266 (compared with 260 in 1951) and total Deaths were 194 (compared with 243 in 1951). Still Births, however, rose to 9 (compared with 6 in 1951) and 6 infants died under one year of age (compared with 5 in 1951). Once again there were no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough and no infants under two years of age died from Diarrhoea.

The character of Infectious Diseases in the Rural District continued to be mild and I am glad to record once again that no case of diphtheria occurred during the year, although this does not mean that we can relax our efforts to obtain an even higher proportion of immunized children in the District.

With regard to vaccination against smallpox, the response continues to be poor. It is hoped that a fact which was recently pointed out at the Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association may begin to be more clearly appreciated, namely, that, "as the frequency and rapidity of travel often makes vaccination against smallpox necessary in adult life (when there is a possibility of undesirable complications if the vaccination is then done for the first time), **it is in the interest of every individual to be vaccinated in infancy.**"

No outbreak of food poisoning occurred during the year, but cases of illness due to infection with food poisoning germs developed from time to time and required careful investigation. It is not sufficiently realised by the general public how much it would help Public Health Departments in their investigations if specimens of suspected foodstuffs (when available), were retained for examination, instead of being thrown away, and if specimens of faeces and any vomited material were also retained for investigation. Furthermore, if everyone who thought they might have had an attack of food poisoning, however mild, would notify their family doctors, who would in turn inform the Public Health Department, much ill health and suffering would be avoided. It is

particularly necessary that everyone so infected should avoid being associated with the preparation of foodstuffs for others until it has been established that they are no longer excreting food poisoning organisms, as the germs may continue to be excreted for sometime after patients have apparently recovered from the illness. This makes us realise how careful we all should be to wash our hands very thoroughly immediately after a visit to the toilet and that every effort should be made to prevent flies gaining access to pail or earth closets, dustbins or babies' soiled napkins, from which places they may carry the germs to our food.

One case of poliomyelitis occurred in July. The patient (an adult) had been travelling outside the District on a number of occasions just prior to his developing the disease and it would appear probable that he contracted the infection on one of these journeys. The patient was removed to hospital and the very extensive task of tracing contacts was undertaken immediately, the Medical Officers of Health being informed in every district where contacts could be traced. Contacts in the Rural District were kept under observation and provided with detailed information so that they might minimize the risk of danger to their own health and that of other people. Members of the patient's household kept as much as possible in their own house and garden and the degree of co-operation received everywhere was of the highest order.

During the year the Ministry of Health has organised a survey of all cases of poliomyelitis occurring in certain districts. Both Saffron Walden Rural District and Borough were included in this Survey, the results of which will be made known later.

Although much remains to be discovered with regard to poliomyelitis, certain facts are emerging as the result of research done in recent years. We know, for instance, that the disease is caused by a very small germ called a virus and that this germ is excreted through the nose, mouth and bowel of patients and is often also excreted by contacts. Hence by following a few simple rules of personal hygiene at all times, especially when cases of poliomyelitis have occurred in the area, it is possible to lessen the risk of acquiring or passing on infection.

It is also a possibility that persons may be infected with poliomyelitis through the contamination of foodstuffs by flies. We must, therefore, take great care to protect all food from flies—especially food that will be eaten without further cooking—made up dishes, fruit, cakes, pies and bread, and take every opportunity to wage war on flies and their breeding places. Much can be done by care in disposal of household waste, e.g., by burning soft organic matter when possible and by treating dustbins with D.D.T., keeping their lids firmly in place, etc.

Less cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year—7 in 1952 compared with 9 in 1951. One death occurred from pulmonary Tuberculosis (2 in 1951) and one from non-pulmonary Tuberculosis (2 in 1951). All tubercular patients and all contacts are given the most assiduous attention and care at the Chest Clinic at Saffron Walden General Hospital and home visits are paid by the Health Visitors. During the year the

Isolation Hospital in the Borough was converted into a hospital for tubercular patients (pulmonary cases) and this should prove very helpful. Open air shelters are provided on loan by Essex County Council if these are recommended by the Chest Physician and if there are suitable sites in the gardens. The Cambridge Miniature Mass Radiography Unit (East Anglian Regional Hospital Board) visited the Saffron Walden area in December and I have included in my Report particulars kindly furnished by the Medical Director of the Unit. Unfortunately the very bad weather reduced the number of attendances from outlying villages. The Director hopes to make another visit at a more favourable time of year.

The case of old people living alone presents an ever-growing problem. It is difficult to find women willing to undertake Home Help duties in the villages and, as yet, the supply of Essex County Council Health Visitors is not sufficient for much time to be allocated for visiting the aged. A number of voluntary bodies are doing all they can to help in individual cases but this will not continue to meet the problem. Under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, it is the responsibility of the Local Authority (i.e., of the Rural District Council) to take appropriate action in the case of persons "who are suffering from grave chronic disease, or, being aged and infirm, or physically handicapped, are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention." Although one hesitates to recommend that old people (unless gravely ill) should be removed from their own homes, if this can be avoided, it will more and more often become the only solution if more organised help cannot be arranged for them in their own homes.

I wish to thank the members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement and the Officials for their co-operation during the year. My thanks are especially due to the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his staff for the outstanding amount of work done during 1952 in the investigation and control of cases of Infectious Diseases, and to my secretary, Mrs. Ledgerton, for her unfailing and cheerful assistance in all difficulties and emergencies.

I am most grateful also to the staff of the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge, which has given me so much help during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

IRENE M. CONWAY HASTILOW

Medical Officer of Health

August, 1953.

SAFFRON WALDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As on 31st December, 1952)

Chairman : D. G. Gold, Esq.

Vice-Chairman : Mrs. M. J. Leonard

Miss M. Baker	Mrs. M. J. Lindsell
Mr. S. S. Barnard	Mr. J. A. Littlewood
Mr. J. H. W. Burleigh	Mr. W. E. Mayhew
Colonel J. Bury	Mrs. J. M. D. Muir
Mr. H. Day	Mr. G. T. Nunn
Mr. A. Edge	Mrs. M. Pelly
Mr. B. E. Erith	Mr. J. Pimblett
Mr. D. J. Evans	Mr. J. S. Plumb
Mr. J. A. Fitzgerald	Mr. G. E. Rose
Mr. G. F. Foot	Mr. F. H. Sergeant
Mrs. E. F. Fraser	W/Cdr. R. P. Smillie
Mrs. M. J. Furness	Vice-Admiral Sir G. O. Stephenson
Rev. H. E. Gardner	Mr. J. Sgavicchia
Mr. A. George	Mr. A. W. Swan
Mr. E. C. Guile	Mr. D. A. W. Thesiger
Mr. W. G. Hardy	Mrs. M. M. Wadman
Mr. P. D. Harrisson	Mr. F. W. Wilson
Rev J. R. Holmes	Mr. P. H. Wiseman
Mr. A. P. Holtom	Mr. H. B. Wootton
Mr. W. L. Kent	
Mr. A. D. King	

Public Health Staff of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health :

Irene M. Conway Hastilow, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.San.I

Secretary :

Mrs. M. Ledgerton

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

A. Armes, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Meat & Food Inspectors' Certificate

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

G. E. Hawthorn, M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :

R. J. Organ (Appointed April, 1952)

Technical Assistant :

R. Skoyles

Sanitary Inspector's Secretary :

Miss J. Sell

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area : 78,585 acres.

Population (Registrar General's estimate of resident population, 1952):
17,740.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to Rate Books :
5,797.

Rateable value : £79,254.

Sum represented by penny rate : £315.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

(Corrections being made from inward and outward transfers)

					Male	Female	Total
Live Births	Legitimate	...	...	...	138	119	257
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	6	3	9
Total Live Births	...	...	...	...	144	122	266
Still Births	Legitimate	...	...	...	5	4	9
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total Still Births	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
Deaths	...	...	...	...	97	97	194
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population :					15.6		
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population :					10.9.		

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1952

Cause of Death	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	1
Syphilitic disease	1	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	7

Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
Diabetes	1	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	15
Coronary disease, angina	14	5
Hypertension with heart disease	0	0
Other heart disease	14	24
Other circulatory disease	6	8
Influenza	0	2
Pneumonia	2	3
Bronchitis	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	6	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
Congenital malformations	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	9
Motor vehicle accidents	3	0
All other accidents	3	1
Suicide	0	1
Homicide and operations of war	0	0

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

From puerperal sepsis	0
From other puerperal causes	0
Total	0

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate	6
Illegitimate	0
Total	6

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age :—

Legitimate	4
Illegitimate	0

Death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births : 22.5.

Deaths from measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from diarrhoea	0

There was no excessive mortality from any particular disease during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis)

Whooping Cough	91	Acute Meningo-	
Measles	82	Encephalitis	1
Scarlet Fever	25	Poliomyelitis	1
Pneumonia	9	Dysentery	3
Paratphoid Fever	2	Salmonella Typhi-murium	
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	infection	3
Food Poisoning	1		

Diphtheria : For the third year running no cases of diphtheria were notified in the District.

Poliomyelitis : The one case of Poliomyelitis was moderately severe. The patient (an adult) appeared to have contracted the disease outside the District.

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 to 5 years								
5 to 15 „	1			1				
15 to 25 „		1	1					
25 to 35 „								
35 to 45 „								
45 to 55 „								
55 to 65 „	1				1			
65 upwards	1	1				1		

Notifications : Seven cases of tuberculosis were notified—five pulmonary and two non-pulmonary.

Deaths : Two deaths from tuberculosis (one pulmonary and one non-pulmonary) were notified in 1952.

The Cambridge Mass Radiography Unit (East Anglian Regional Hospital Board) visited Saffron Walden Borough in December, 1952, and the adult-population and senior school children in the Borough and Rural District were offered the opportunity of free X-ray examination.

I am indebted to Dr. D. Smith, the Medical Director of the Unit, for the following report :—

CAMBRIDGE MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

SAFFRON WALDEN SURVEY

December 3rd—18th, 1952

	Males	Females	Total
<i>No. Attending for X-Ray :</i>			
General Public	742	756	1498
Training College Students ...	—	124	124
Training College Staff ...	—	4	4
Secondary School Children ...	251	145	396
Secondary School Staff ...	23	18	41
Private School Children (Friends' School)	81	117	198
Private School Staff	15	22	37
Total	1112	1186	2298
<hr/>			
No. Recalled for Full Size Film	72	83	155
No. Passed after Full Size Film	54	55	109
Defaulters for Full Size Film (due to illness)	2	—	2
Referred for further Investi- gation	16	28	44
<hr/>			
<i>Tuberculous Conditions :</i>			
Old Calcified or Non-Significant Lesions, requiring no further action	12	11	23
Previously Diagnosed Tuber- culosis already under Super- vision	1	1	2
Newly Discovered Significant Lesions :			
(a) requiring treatment ...	2	3	5
(b) further observation at the Chest Clinic	2	5	7
Referred to Doctor for Recheck	1	3	4

CAMBRIDGE MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT'S REPORT (continued)

COMMENT

1. The total number of persons showing evidence of tuberculosis was 41.
2. **Active case rate** per thousand persons examined was 2.1.
This is lower than the average overall figure obtained at surveys by this Unit, which is usually in the region of 2.6 per thousand.
3. **Schools.** No case of active tuberculosis was discovered at the present survey among schoolchildren.

FOOD POISONING

No outbreak of food poisoning occurred in the District during the year, but four persons who developed symptoms of gastro-intestinal upset, at different times during the year, were found to be excreting food poisoning organisms and in one or two instances close contacts were found to be also excreting these germs.

In only one case could the source of the infection be ascertained. This was a patient who was infected while in a hospital where an outbreak of food poisoning (due to infection with *Salmonella Typhi-murium*) occurred.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases

78 cases of Chicken-pox, 2 cases of Ringworm, 2 cases of Mumps, 2 cases of German Measles and 1 case of Impetigo were notified during 1952 by the schools.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

Laboratory Service—Bacteriological Service : The district is served by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities : A day and night ambulance service is provided by the Essex County Council. The ambulance station is at Saffron Walden and is on the telephone, but as the driver and attendant may be away from the station answering a call, persons requiring an ambulance are advised to dial "999" and ask for an ambulance. Where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person, such as a duly authorised officer in the Mental Health Service.

Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery (provided by Essex County Council) : These services are carried out by the Home Nurse/Midwives resident in the area.

Domiciliary Visiting by Health Visitors (provided by Essex County Council) : There are three Health Visitors working in the Rural District.

Domestic Help Service : Applications for domestic help should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex Division, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

Care of Expectant Mothers (provided by Essex County Council) : An Ante-Natal Clinic is held on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays in the month at 69 High Street, Saffron Walden.

Care of Children up to School Age (provided by Essex County Council) : Child Welfare Sessions are held at Newport, Debden, Ashdon and Stansted, as well as at Saffron Walden. Children are immunised against diphtheria at all clinics. Vaccinations are not carried out at the clinics as a routine, but are performed by the family doctor.

Care of School Children (provided by Essex County Council) : Regular School Medical Inspections are carried out at all schools. Children are immunised against diphtheria with the consent of their parents.

Hospitals : The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Boards and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve the population of the Saffron Walden Rural District are those in Saffron Walden, Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford. Saffron Walden Isolation Hospital was converted into a hospital for tubercular patients during the year. Cases of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care are now admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospitals at Cambridge, Newmarket and Bishop's Stortford.

Chest Clinics are available for the population of the Saffron Walden Rural District. There is one at Saffron Walden General Hospital, one at Castle Hill, Cambridge and one at Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases is provided at the Clinics at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and at Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47. It was not necessary to take Statutory Action under this Section during 1952.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

HOUSING

The number of new council houses completed in 1952 was 98, while 52 others were in course of construction. The number of houses erected by private enterprise was 10.

In selecting tenants for the houses built by the Council the policy of dealing with each case on its merits was maintained, due regard being given to the abatement of overcrowding and the improvement of housing circumstances.

Further progress was made during the year in the provision of small disposal work for council house sites, thereby tending to obviate the difficulties which have arisen in the past.

WATER

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. J. S. Y. Molineux), who is responsible for the maintenance of main water supplies, for the following report :

I am pleased to say that, with the exception of the Southern Area, the quality of water remains satisfactory. There has been an increase in consumption in all areas, amounting to an additional 26 million gallons for the year.

In connection with the Southern Area, an experiment was tried on two dead ends by chemically treating the mains and scraping. It was found, however, that this treatment, although removing a considerable amount of matter from the mains, did not appreciably improve the quality of the water, and having regard to this and on the advice of a Consultant, the Council will shortly consider a scheme for aerating the water at the Henham Pumping Station.

With very few exceptions all properties in the District have main water available, either laid on to the premises or from nearby stand-pipes. Owing to shortage of staff it has been impossible, unfortunately, to get a complete survey on the number of dwelling houses, and the number of population, supplied from public water mains.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The operation of the sewers at Stansted and Newport and the sewage disposal works at Newport continue to be satisfactory. Work is nearly completed on the temporary improvements at the Stansted Sewage Works. During the year two new disposal works have been constructed in connection with housing sites at Elsenham and Littlebury, and are working satisfactorily, and contracts have been let for further disposal works at Langley and Chrishall.

Additional schemes are being prepared by Consultants for sewerage and disposal for the village of Great Chesterford, and disposal works for Quendon and Rickling.

TYPICAL RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

(in parts per million)

TEST	SOURCE						
	Hempstead Works	Newport Works	Henham Works	Wenden Works	Linton Works	Stansted Works	Rochfords Works
Appearance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Colour	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Odour	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
pH	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.0
Free CO ₂	30	24	16	22	15	18	39
Elect. Conductivity	540	590	560	550	520	550	595
Total Solids	360	395	375	370	350	310	400
Cl. as Chloride	17	21	14	16	15	19	21
Alkalinity (Ca. CO ₃)	265	260	285	240	205	255	275
Hardness (Total)	305	330	325	310	280	310	335
Hardness (Carbonate)	265	260	285	240	205	255	275
Hardness (Non-Carbonate)	40	70	40	70	75	55	60
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.6	8.4	0.0	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.2
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent	Absent	less than 0.01	Absent	less than 0.01	less than 0.01	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.018	0.008	0.013	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.05	0.05	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00
Residual Chlorine	0.15	Absent	Absent	0.25	Absent	Absent	Absent
Metals	Iron—less than 0.03	Absent	less than 0.03	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent

Bacteriological Examinations : All supplies were sampled regularly for bacteriological examination and where reports proved unsatisfactory immediate action was taken.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1952

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the Saffron Walden Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the work of the Sanitary Inspectors' Department for the year 1952, my seventh year of office under the Council.

The statistics and comments in the pages which follow indicate the wide field covered by the term "sanitation" (or "environmental hygiene") and there is little doubt of the importance attached to this subject when one considers the outstanding achievements and improvements brought about in the last hundred years and the higher standards of living now taken for granted by residents of even the more rural communities.

Whilst housing still remains a major problem the continued erection of new houses has enabled many families to start a new life, free from overcrowding and mental stress.

It is indeed encouraging to note, in the course of my duties as Housing Officer, the few outstanding cases of overcrowding now remaining on housing lists as compared with the position a few years ago. This somewhat rosy picture is unfortunately blurred by the fact that large numbers of small cottages are deteriorating rapidly, possibly, at as fast a rate as the construction of new dwellings. The main cause of this, which is a source of anxiety for all concerned with housing, is the serious obstacle in the way of improving and repairing houses brought about by the outdated Rent Restriction Acts which no longer allow property owners an economic return on expenditure incurred in maintaining and improving such properties.

The continued policy of the Council in co-ordinating rehousing with action under the Housing Acts is therefore to be commended and, even where some leniency has had to be shown in view of the present position, action taken in accordance with instructions recommended by the appropriate Committee has been instrumental in keeping many cottages fit for habitation for some years to come.

I had the privilege of expanding on this important matter when presenting a paper on "Rural Housing" to the Annual Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute in April 1952.

The action of the Council in appointing an addition to the technical staff of the Department is much appreciated and has enabled increased attention to be given to food hygiene, milk and water supplies, and other important matters.

The fact that no outbreak of food poisoning occurred in the District is not a matter for complacency and, as I have commented in the paragraphs dealing with this subject, greater care could be shown by food handlers especially during busy periods and I feel that consumers themselves would help the present campaign by refusing to accept, without comment, the small, but important "indiscretions" often committed by those handling food and food utensils.

The work of the Department must be closely allied to that of other principal departments and the spirit of co-operation existing between all chief officers of the Council assists enormously in this respect.

In conclusion may I express my thanks to the Chairman of the Council, the Chairmen of the Public Health and Tenancy Committees and all members of the Council for their help and consideration. I am indebted to all members of my staff for their ready help and loyal co-operation in carrying out onerous but unspectacular, and often unpopular duties, in an essentially tactful and impartial manner.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. ARMES,

Senior Sanitary Inspector

July, 1953.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the year 1952

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Inpections carried out by officers of the Department during the year totalled 3,612 and the details below indicate the multifarious nature of these visits :—

Housing Inspections and Revisits in respect of Repairs, Over-crowding, etc.	470
Miscellaneous Housing Inspections (re Improvement Grants, etc.)	17
Investigations and re-inspections regarding Council House applications	703
Investigations regarding Building Licence applications	35
Inspections of Council Houses regarding cleanliness, management, lodgers, etc.	394
Inspections of Requisitioned Properties regarding management, repairs, schedules of condition, etc.	44
Inspections in connection with Public Health Nuisances	90
Inspections of premises infested with vermin, etc.	31
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	178
Visits in connection with Rodent Destruction (not including Operator's Visits)	91
Inspections of Dairies	63
Inspections of Bakehouses	14
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	32
Inspections of Food Shops, etc.	56
Inspections of Factories	25
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises	69
Investigations regarding proposed new drainage	201
Inspections in connection with defective drainage	269
Visits in connection with Refuse and Night Soil Collection and Salvage	272
Inspections in connection with water supplies	98
Number of water samples collected from main supplies	295
Inspections in-connection with Moveable Dwellings	80
Miscellaneous Visits	85

HOUSING

(a) Council Houses

Erection of Council houses in various parishes continued throughout the year and by December 31st all but one parish had been provided with a group of new dwellings. The difficulties to be overcome in order to provide houses on sites in approximately 30 different villages are often unappreciated by those outside local government circles, although the realisation of such a programme is only achieved by the efficient co-operation of all officers concerned, viz., Clerk of the Council, Architect, Surveyor, Treasurer and Sanitary Inspector. Tribute is also due to the painstaking and voluntary part played by the Sites Committee and Housing Progress Committee, the latter being responsible for day to day progress with projected and current contracts.

	Up to 31-12-51	During year 1952	Total at 31-12-52
Post-war Council houses erected (including prefabricated bungalows and conversions)	328	98	426
Post-war Private enterprise houses erected	84	10	94
Council houses under construction at 31st December, 1952 :	52.		
Private enterprise houses under construction at 31st December, 1952 :	20		

Investigation, and periodic re-investigation of the housing circumstances of all housing applicants remains the duty of this Department and the value of this work to the Tenancy Committee and other bodies concerned with planning programmes, etc., justified the many visits involved.

The appointment of an Assistant Inspector during the year enabled the combined duties of Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer to be carried out without detriment to either section of the work.

During the year the Tenancy Committee, at its 16 meetings, dealt with the selection of tenants for 90 houses constructed or falling vacant. The fact that the "hard core" of outstanding inadequately housed families has now been dealt with means that even greater care has to be taken in selecting tenants and the impartial and painstaking deliberations of the responsible Committee under its Chairman (J. A. Plumb, Esq.) deserve praise.

The provision of a greater number of small single-storied dwellings in several parishes enabled the Committee to make some progress in

transferring small families from “under occupied” Council houses in accordance with the suggestion of the Central Housing Advisory Committee in its report entitled “Selection of Tenants.” Tactful advice and encouragement resulted in all the suggested transfers being carried out without ill-feeling and it is interesting to record that many tenants concerned have expressed appreciation of the move despite their initial—and natural—reluctance. An additional advantage of this policy is the fact that a number of older and cheaper houses become available for occupation by families that are unsuitable for, or unwilling to, rent new post-war dwellings.

During the year it was possible to prepare a duplicate card index system for each applicant so as to enable the up-to-date requirements of each parish to be prepared rapidly, indicating, not only the number of “priority” cases but also the sizes of houses required in each village.

A Report on Housing Requirements presented to the Council early in 1953 is appended.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

1. Total number of applications received	608
2. “Non-Priority” cases	282
3. “Priority” cases :	
(a) Overcrowded or “Bedroom deficiency”	65
(b) Sharing houses	121
(c) Bad housing conditions	37
(d) Occupying requisitioned properties	20
(e) Awaiting marriage	16
(f) Medical priorities	10
(g) Court orders for possession	2
(h) Approved farmers applications for additional workers	26
Total number of Priority Cases	329
Deduct number of houses in process of construction	170
4. Additional housing requirements to meet “immediate need”	127
5. Approximate “long term” requirements (includes occupied properties subject to Clearance and Demolition Orders and the number of properties classed in Categories 4 and 5)	486
6. Combined total of “Immediate” and “Long Term” requirements	613

(b) Overcrowding

The following table summarises the position as respects Overcrowding existing in the District :—

SUMMARY OF OVERCROWDING AND ABATEMENT

	"Borderline" (Permitted No. = No. of Persons)	Houses where No. of "persons" exceeded the Permitted Number by :								Totals	
		$\frac{1}{2}$ person	1 person	$1\frac{1}{2}$ persons	2 persons	3 persons	$3\frac{1}{2}$ persons	4 persons	$4\frac{1}{2}$ persons	Borderline	Overcrowded
Cases on Register at 31.12.51	19	7	9	3	4	1	—	1	1	19	26
Ascertained during 1952	2	1	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	6
Cases abated during 1952 by removal to Council Houses	6	2	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	6	9
Cases otherwise abated during 1952	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Number of Cases on Register at 31.12.52	14	5	7	—	5	1	1	1	1	14	21

The above figures illustrate the improvement brought about by careful selection of Council house tenants. Perhaps more convincing is the number of families rehoused on the grounds of "sharing house" or those with "bedroom deficiency" (i.e., children sleeping with parents or children of opposite sexes over age of 10 years sharing bedroom, etc.)

Number of families "sharing houses" rehoused during 1952 ...	37
Number of families with "bedroom deficiency" rehoused during 1952	18
Number of cases of "bad housing" rehoused during 1952	16

(c) Management of Council Houses

The Department is responsible for regular inspection of Council Houses to detect cases of "bad management," wilful damage, uncleanliness, etc., and also the investigation of applications to house lodgers.

Of 110 houses inspected it was only found necessary to take informal action regarding 12 tenants, but in one outstanding case co-operation with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children resulted in a successful prosecution.

Generally speaking I believe that such visits, as carried out by officers trained in such duties, are well received by tenants who realise, only too well, the trouble caused by even one bad tenant on an estate ; furthermore, the opportunity is taken to report to the Council's Surveyor urgent repairs brought to light by such inspections and, again, it is encouraging for the officers concerned with rehousing to note the general improvement in the " well-being " of families rehoused from sub-standard dwellings and of young families living an independent family life after years of waiting and sharing.

Requisitioned properties formed the subject of Circular 73/52 received during the year from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. A Report subsequently prepared showed that of 43 dwellings originally requisitioned by the Council 20 were still held and occupied by Licensees, the net loss for the year amounting to £91. In accordance with the recommendation of the Working Party set up by the Government the 20 remaining properties should be released not later than December, 1954, and the Council's Tenancy Committee were asked to ensure that this would be complied with.

Number of properties under Requisition at 31st December, 1951 : 28

Number of properties under Requisition at 31st December, 1952 : 20

(d) Action under Housing Acts

In accordance with the policy decided upon in 1951 each dwelling house becoming vacant as the result of the tenant being rehoused by the Council was inspected in detail and the action to be taken was decided by the Sub-Committee appointed for this purpose. In general the Committee recommended informal action where repairs of a minor nature would keep the property habitable for a number of years, but in cases where an " official representation " was made that the property was unfit and not repairable at a reasonable expense action was taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. In such cases either informal " Undertakings " were accepted from owners or Official " Undertakings " were put into force. The Sub-Committee dealt with 50 cottages which became vacant during the year.

The procedure has been beneficial in ensuring that many properties have been saved from further deterioration and so helped to solve the current problem of shortage of accommodation. Furthermore it has prevented derelict cottages becoming " clearing houses " for erstwhile

Council house tenants. Nevertheless, it is obvious that deterioration of many cottages will continue until action is taken by the legislature to revise the present system of rent control so as to make the repair of properties an economic proposition.

The table below indicates progress made during the year in respect of housing repairs, etc.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Informal Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	87
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of informal notices	49
3. Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	5
4. Number of Statutory Notices complied with by owners during the year	6
5. Number of Undertakings accepted by the Council during 1952 under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	5
6. Number of dwelling houses in which work was completed in accordance with Undertakings	Nil
7. Number of informal Undertakings accepted from owners agreeing not to re-use premises for human habitation	3

(Note : Notices complied with may include those served during the previous year).

Two cottages subject to Demolition Orders were demolished by owners during the year, the occupiers concerned being rehoused by the Council.

One Improvement Grant of £177 (50% of the " approved expense ") under the Housing Act, 1949, was approved and the works were nearing completion at the end of the year.

The fact that advice upon such grants was sought by owners in respect of 10 properties indicates that the benefits to be obtained are becoming more widely known and there is little doubt that the passing of the amending Act of 1952 whereby such grants may now be paid in respect of " tied " cottages will assist in improving the housing conditions of agricultural workers. The increase of the " approved expense " from £600 to £800 should also encourage such schemes especially in cases where these entail the provision of an expensive sewage disposal plant.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Applications for development permission under the Town and Country Planning Acts were received in respect of 14 moveable dwellings. In 5 cases permission was granted for fixed periods and Licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act were subsequently issued, subject to certain conditions.

The number of Licences now in force under this Act is 14, including one in respect of a site for tents and trailer caravans, which is licensed for seven months of each year, and one in respect of a site for 3 modern trailer caravans.

Action was necessary in respect of 8 encampments occupied by itinerant workers and in 7 cases this resulted in the sites being vacated. Whilst it is appreciated that many farmers are forced to depend upon such labour for vegetable gathering, etc., the absence of or neglect to use proper sanitary facilities gives rise to many justifiable complaints and in one case, where the landowners refused to comply with the Town Planning notice to clear such a site situated in the centre of the village, the enforcement authority were asked to take Statutory action. The co-operation of the responsible Town Planning Officials is much appreciated in respect of these duties.

WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Public Supplies

The Department carried out sampling of all main supplies in the District at fortnightly intervals, samples being collected from the head-works and at various points along the mains in each area.

The results obtained are indicated below :—

Supply	No. of samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination	Number complying with standard	Number found not to comply with standard
Rochfords, Birchanger	56	33	23
Stansted Water Co.	42	41	1
Southern Area			
(Henham Works)	99	90	9
Central Area (Newport Works)	2	2	—
Western Area (Wenden Works)	39	38	1
Eastern Area			
(Hempstead Works)	26	26	—
Hadstock (South Cambs. R.D.C.)	17	17	—
Totals	281	247	34

The figures in the last column above indicate the number of samples which failed to reach the very high standard laid down for a public water supply, but in each case the "bacterial count" was small and did not imply that the water was unfit for drinking or domestic purposes. However, wherever such results were obtained the Water Engineer was notified in order that he could take action to ensure that chlorination was adequate.

Following a series of unsatisfactory samples from the supply at Rochfords Nurseries (supplying approximately 50 cottages) the owners were asked to carry out works so as to byepass underground storage tanks. Since the completion of this work sampling has indicated that the water is now satisfactory.

Each source of supply was sampled at least once during the year for chemical analysis and the laboratory reports indicated that all the water concerned was satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes.

Complaints were received during the year from consumers drawing water from "dead ends" off mains in the Southern Supply Area. Despite treatment carried out to cleanse the short lengths of mains concerned little improvement was effected and at the end of the year the matter was under consideration following a detailed report received from the Counties Laboratories.

Tenders were accepted by the Council during the year for the extension of water mains to serve outlying cottages and farms in the parishes of Ashdon and Langley, and this work is now in hand.

(b) Private Supplies

Samples submitted from a shallow spring used by the occupiers of 9 cottages indicated that the water showed intermittent pollution. A public standpipe from the nearby main supply was provided by the Council to serve the properties concerned.

In another case, where a polluted spring supply was being used, the owner complied with a request to connect the property to the Council's main.

Samples collected from wells serving 3 dwelling houses in remote places indicated that the water was satisfactory for drinking purposes.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

156 plans submitted for Byelaw approval were passed to the Department for investigation regarding drainage proposals and in each case recommendations were forwarded to the Plans Committee after inspection of the sites. In the majority of cases the proposals involved the construction of a septic tank and filter in lieu of a watertight cess-pool, and the consequent discharge of the effluent into the sub-soil. These installations appear to work satisfactorily although many householders do not realise the importance of removing sludge and cleaning the filter media at regular intervals.

The Council's policy of providing small sewage disposal works to deal with the drainage from large groups of Council houses has overcome the serious difficulties previously encountered, and plants designed by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor have been completed during the year at Elsenham, Widdington and Littlebury, while tenders have also been accepted for works at Langley and Chrishall. Maintenance of the plants is carried out by mobile labour.

As reported by the Engineer and Surveyor the Council's Consulting Engineers have been asked to prepare schemes for a disposal works at Quendon and Rickling and also for providing main sewerage for the parish of Great Chesterford.

It is to be hoped that the Council may soon be able to proceed with similar schemes for the larger parishes such as Littlebury, Manuden, Ashdon and Debden and others where continued complaints arise due to the pollution of ditches and small rivers.

A private Enquiry was held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government concerning the utilization of an existing disposal works at Birchanger to deal with the new housing site in the parish and to serve about 70 existing properties. A detailed survey of the area was made and a report presented to the Ministry's Inspector and, at the time of writing this report, the work was about to be put in hand.

During the year 46 informal notices were issued regarding defective drainage and by the end of the year 42 had been complied with.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council's contractors continued to carry out refuse collection throughout the District and, bearing in mind the difficulties arising in a large rural area, the complaints received were not numerous. The

firm concerned are immediately notified of such complaints in writing and usually deal with these within two or three days.

At the end of December, 1952, the contractors gave notice of their intention to terminate the contract owing to considerable increases in the cost of petrol, labour, etc. Tenders were therefore invited for this work and it is hoped that the Council may take this opportunity to increase the frequency of refuse collection in those parishes where monthly collection causes difficulties.

The four pits used for refuse disposal were maintained in a reasonably satisfactory condition by mobile labour, but during an exceptionally hot summer spell the tips at Stansted and Radwinter caught fire and burned for several months. Unfortunately the provision of suitable covering material which would overcome the danger of fire is likely to prove difficult and expensive.

The market for salvaged waste paper took a remarkable turn during the twelve months under review and prices paid by the Board Mills dropped from £16 per ton to £7 10s. per ton. In June, 1952, intake to the Mills was restricted to a quota of 4 tons monthly and, by December, difficulties were being encountered owing to lack of storage space at both salvage depots.

Income derived from the sale of salvaged materials is shown in the comparative table which follows :—

				1951			1952		
				T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
Waste paper	...			83	13	—	75	15	2
Rags	...	...			17	—	1	8	—
Metals	...	...		3	8	2	1	16	1
Total amount received									
from sale of materials				£1,313	.	16 . 5	£900	.	5 . 2

Night soil collection is carried out once weekly by contractors in the parishes of Great Chesterford, Littlebury and part of Newport.

As the result of applications by several parishes for provision of this service the Council considered the question of extending regular night soil collection to all the unserved parts of the District but finally decided against such a scheme on the grounds of expense. It was, how-

ever, agreed to sponsor an arrangement whereby a contractor carried out collection privately and the householder entered into a contract to pay the contractor direct. Posters were issued and post cards provided for householders and by the end of the year over 100 householders were taking advantage of the arrangement.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

(a) Milk and Dairies

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for the registration of dairy farmers and the supervision of milk production at dairy farms.

The District Council's responsibility applies to the enforcement of the Milk and Dairies Regulations in relation to the distribution of milk, for the registration of dairies which are not dairy farms and of milk distributors who are not dairy farmers.

The distribution of milk has shown a remarkable change during the past few years and the sale of loose milk from hand cans is fortunately rapidly disappearing.

After many years of steady propaganda the public demand for milk of special designations (Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised) is growing rapidly and as a consequence many of the smaller distributors purchase bottled milk from the larger firms outside the District.

Regular inspection of all dairies was carried out and samples taken at random at the dairies or from the milk roundsmen. These samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

Number of Registered Dairy Premises	10
Number of Registered Distributors of Milk	11
Dealers Licences issued in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	11
*Supplementary Licences issued in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
Dealers Licences issued in respect of Pasteurised Milk	11
*Supplementary Licences issued in respect of Pasteurised Milk ...	2
(*Premises situated outside the District).	

Designation	Samples taken	No. satisfactory	No. unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested ...	16	15	1
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ...	9	9	—
Pasteurised ...	10	8	2

Regular sampling of supplies for bacteriological examination (for the presence of tubercle bacilli or brucella abortus) is not carried out as it is understood that this duty is performed by the Essex County Council. No positive results for tuberculosis have been notified during the year by the latter authority but 4 supplies were notified as containing brucella abortus (organism of undulant fever). Repeat sampling carried out by the Department yielded fluctuating results and no diversion orders were made under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

In view of a small number of non-pulmonary (gland) cases of tuberculosis among children in one area detailed investigations were made and samples of milk submitted for biological examination but all these yielded negative results.

(b) Ice Cream

There are no premises in the District registered for the manufacture of ice cream but 33 vendors are registered under the Essex County Council Act, 1933, for sale and storage. Practically all the ice cream sold is pre-wrapped by the manufacturers and all retailers have adequate conservators for storage. Regular sampling and inspection has been carried out and storage temperatures checked.

Retailers were reminded that where the temperature rises above 28 degrees fahrenheit the ice cream must not be offered for sale even after refreezing.

It is regretted that to date a definite bacteriological standard has not been adopted for this product.

Ice Cream samples from retailers, 1952

Total number of samples taken : 52

Samples in Provisional Grade I	34
Samples in Provisional Grade II	15
Samples in Provisional Grade III	3
Samples in Provisional Grade IV	Nil

Whilst this record can be regarded as satisfactory investigations and immediate repeat sampling are carried out in cases where samples fail to reach Grades I or II.

(c) Meat and Other Foods

Butchers meat supplies in the District are obtained from the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Saffron Walden and the improvement noted last year regarding the transport of meat and offal has been generally maintained.

Seven slaughterhouses are licensed for the slaughter of privately owned pigs under permit and inspection of the carcasses is carried out. All such slaughtering is carried out by licensed slaughtermen with mechanical stunning instruments.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	40
Number inspected ...	—	—	—	—	40
All diseases except tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...					
	—	—	—	—	5
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...					
	—	—	—	—	2.5

No unsound food was found being exposed for sale and the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered by vendors after being reported by them :—

Canned foods of all descriptions	134 tins
Dried milk powder	112 lbs.
Kippers	28 lbs.
Bacon	8 lbs.
Butchers meat	21 lbs.
Haricot beans	56 lbs.

One large consignment of food condemned by a Port Sanitary Authority and purchased for animal feeding in this District was kept under surveillance following notification by the Authority concerned.

(d) Food Premises and Catering Establishments

A detailed survey of all premises where food is stored, sold or prepared was continued during the year and by the end of December particulars of 54 premises had been recorded. Each opportunity was taken during these inspections to point out the requirements of food legislation, particularly the new Food Byelaws, and advice was given as to hygienic habits which must be formed if the possibility of food poisoning is to be prevented.

Except in very few cases premises themselves were generally satisfactory from the point of view of structure, repair and cleanliness, but observance of the actual process of food handling indicated that those responsible are not always acutely conscious of lurking dangers where food is handled needlessly and carelessly.

Action taken involved a general store which was found to be in a filthy condition but a sharp warning brought about a rapid and lasting improvement and a similar warning regarding the general cleanliness of a cafe had the same effect.

In one case where constant hot water was not provided for hand washing an informal notice was served and complied with.

Improvements in the layout and equipment of a sausage preparation room were carried out on verbal advice.

Sanitary conveniences for female patrons were provided at one cafe after written notice.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOOD POISONING

Detailed investigations were carried out in connection with the following cases :—

Scarlet Fever, 19 ; Sonne Dysentery, 4 ; Salmonella Typhimurium, 2 ; Paratyphoid B., 2 ; Poliomyelitis, 1 (plus 2 suspected cases); Diarrhoea and Vomiting, 3 ; Food Poisoning, 1.

In every case investigated advice was given regarding precautions to be taken, contacts were followed up, specimens collected and submitted to the laboratory and, where necessary, terminal disinfection was carried out.

In the investigation of the paratyphoid cases use was made of Moores swabs (which consist of pieces of sterile gauze) suspended for three days in the flow of sewage through manholes. Despite this the source of infection was not traced either in these cases or the other enteric infections investigated.

Following the removal of 6 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis to hospital steam disinfection of bedding and spray disinfection of rooms was carried out.

RODENT CONTROL

Acting upon instructions received from the Ministry of Agriculture (Infestation Division) the services of the part-time contractor/operator were terminated during the year. Thereafter the work of rodent destruction was carried out by a direct employee of the Council who received a course of training in an adjoining district (my thanks are due to Mr. A. L. Good, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council for his help in this connection).

Existing buildings were converted for use as a depot for storage and mixing of baits and poisons, and all necessary equipment and material were provided.

At the same time the Council decided to charge occupiers of dwelling houses in accordance with the following scale :—

Up to and including £10 rateable value	5	0
£11 to £20 rateable value inclusive	7	6
£21 to £30 rateable value inclusive	15	0
Over £30 rateable value	1	0 0

(This scale does not apply where infestation is due to the neglect of the occupier).

The whole cost of treating business premises is recovered from the occupiers.

The table below indicates briefly the work carried out during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 :—

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Business and Industrial etc.	Total
1. Approximate total number of properties in District ...	14	5140	331	326	5811
2. Properties inspected as a result of notification of infestation ...	—	36	—	3	39
3. Premises inspected without notification of infestation ...	14	57	21	23	115
4. Number of properties found to be infested with rats ...	Major 6	7	3	10	26
	Minor 8	51	7	12	86
5. Number of properties found to be seriously infested with mice ...	—	1	—	3	4
6. Number of infested properties treated by the Council	14	48	—	15	77

Only two informal notices were served asking for premises to be treated (one dwelling house and one agricultural property) ; both were complied with.

Test baiting of sewers was carried out in Newport and Stansted during the year, in each case bait being laid in 10% of the total number of manholes. The comparatively new sewers at Newport were found to be free of infestation, but treatment of the older Stansted sewers was necessary at six monthly intervals.

All the refuse tips were treated at six weekly intervals throughout the year, baits and poisons being varied frequently.

Following a report from Stansted Airport examination of a civil aircraft on arrival from South Africa indicated the presence of rodents on board. Treatment of the plane by hydrogen cyanide was arranged after which one dead rat was discovered. The carcase was submitted to the Central Public Health Laboratory but no evidence of bacillus pestis was found. It was interesting to note the damage done by rodents to upholstery, rubber lifebelts, etc.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

Particulars of premises registered under the Factories Act, 1937, inspections made and action taken are as follows :—

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health :

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	4	2 "	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	58	18	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	6	3	1	—
Total	69	25	3	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found :

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	to H.M. Inspectors	Referred by H.M. Inspectors	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to out-workers)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—	—

GENERAL

Action taken in connection with general matters not already mentioned in the Report were as follows :—

Polluted ditches and ponds	5
Dwelling houses in filthy condition	4
Absence of refuse receptacles	2
Poultry kept under insanitary conditions	1
Other nuisances	12
Premises disinfested for fleas	2
Premises disinfested for bed bugs	1
Premises disinfested for cockroaches	1
Premises disinfested for mosquitoes	3
Premises disinfested for flies, etc.	8

Following receipt of information concerning an old lady living alone under unsatisfactory conditions action was taken, but death took place before removal to a suitable institution could be arranged.

Reports were supplied by the Department in connection with 213 Requisitions for Searches under the Land Charges Act.

A. ARMES,

July, 1953.

Senior Sanitary Inspector